

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Reaching Out With the Unconditional Love of God

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September 2017 NEWSLETTER

Final Flings

Dear Friends:

I read a devotional every morning that arrives in my email inbox. It is distributed by the Center for Action and Contemplation and usually the devotionals are written by Richard Rohr but sometimes other noted contemporary authors get a guest spot. There are a series of devotionals that have stayed present in my mind and heart on the subject of forgiveness. He wrote, "Our first forgiveness is towards reality itself: to forgive it for being so broken, a mixture of good and bad. Only God, it seems, is spacious enough to include everything". During these very divisive times it is comforting to know that holding all sides is impossible without God. But that also the way through is with forgiveness.

Fall is always a busy time. Because we have spent significant time this summer working on our water issue we are not as prepared as I would like to be for fall programming. Richard Rohr reminds us, that through God's grace it is never too late. We simply pick it up when we can. We accept that we cannot control everything.

I also celebrate that we are a missional church rather than a program church. We have a natural inclination to put our energies into mission work rather than programming. Just a reminder that we have a mission day coming up on September 10th. For the last three years our, "God's Work, Our Hands" mission project has been putting together Baby Kits to be used by Lutheran Refugee Service around the world. See the article in this newsletter regarding what supplies are needed. Also check out the discussion regarding our basement and the decision we made on Sunday, August 27th. We are moving forward in Christ's love!

Blessings,

Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

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St. Mark's Food Ministry



Food Pantry: Every time we are open the Food Pantry is serving twelve to fifteen families. We have been going through a lot of food! If you are aware of any Boy Scout Troop or Girl Scout Troop that would like to do a food drive for us, or any other organization, have them contact Lori. Our old freezer finally gave out two weeks ago and we sadly lost 80 pounds of hamburger that was in the freezer. Thankfully, the new freezer donated by Jim Benz a few years ago is going strong. Lynn Miller believes he has another upright freezer for the food pantry.

Friday Meal: The basement remained dry for the entire month of August. The Friday Meal has been able to offer hospitality without disruption. Elaine, our new Friday Meal Coordinator is doing a great job learning the names of all of our Friday volunteers.

Currently the Balance for the Food Ministries is \$10,669.32

Financial Giving

August Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$3605.00	\$2200.00
Friends	\$ 136.00	\$ 350.00
Rent Rec'd 7th Day	\$ 860.00	\$ 860.00
Rent Rec'd Foods Mins	\$ 737.50	\$ 737.50
Rent Rec'd MOSES	\$ 225.00	\$ 225.00
Chef Joel	275.00	

**Thank you to members and friends who support
the ministry of St. Mark's.**

St. Mark's Calendar

Every Tuesday
Every Thursday
Every Friday

Food Pantry 10 a.m. – 12 Noon
Food Pantry 5:45 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Friday Free Meal 12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m.

September Birthdays



September Ogden Greene
September 30 Kate Krueger





God's Work, Our Hands - Sunday, September 10 - Baby Kits

If you like going to garage sales we need size newborn to 24 months: cotton t-shirts, long or short-sleeved gowns without feet, baby blankets, cloth diapers, jackets, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, baby hats and socks. The clothing should be stain free and in good condition. For those more inclined to purchase we need bath sized gentle soap (not Irish Spring), hand towels, and cloth baby diapers. **Baby Kit Assembly is after worship on September 10th**

Team Meeting Updates (Basement Waterproofing)/Renewal Update/Connect

At our meeting on Sunday we decided to go with Badger Basement for our waterproofing problem. We will put a deposit down and hope to get on their schedule ASAP. We may need about \$1500 more than what is currently in our checking account to cover the cost. More information to come.

Last year the congregation began participating in a renewal program called Connect. We met with other congregations working towards renewal. The first Connect Retreat is Saturday, September 9th from 8:30 to 3:00 at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Verona. We need four people to volunteer to attend. The activities have been enriching. Volunteers bring back activities for the whole congregation to participate in. As I (Lori) understand, almost everyone from this congregation is out of town on this day. Lynn and I will go. But it would be great to have someone join us on this day.

Pride Parade Wrap-Up

Last year it was just the Powell Miller family walking the in the Pride Parade, this year we had two other families (Chris and Jim, Mark and Lisa) joined us and discovered how grace filled it is to walk in a parade that welcomes everyone. We also had the banner Chris designed for us to carry. It was super terrific. Next year we may get a booth on the square for those who have trouble walking.



South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Around the Synod

Moving Worship Forward In A Time of Change - Alternative Worship Event!

Saturday, September 16, 2017 - Brochures are on the bulletin board.